

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber array housing a stripped fiber in a V-groove of a V-groove substrate comprising:
 - a fiber fixing substrate fixing said stripped fiber; and
 - a peripheral adhesive disposed around said stripped fiber;wherein an end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed ~~no more than 10 μ m~~ depth x with respect to an end face of said fiber, said recess depth x being at least 0.1 μ m and no more than 10 μ m.
2. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein ~~a said~~ recess depth x that said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end face of said fiber is related to a water absorption ratio ϕ of said peripheral adhesive and a length L over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation $x = 0.1(\phi L) / 2$.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ end face of said fiber is flush with said an end face of said fiber array or protrudes therefrom.
6. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed at most 10 μ m from ~~said an~~ an end face of said fiber array.

7. (Previously Presented) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral adhesive has a Young's modulus of at least 0.03 GPa.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end faces-face of said ~~fibers~~fiber, comprising the steps of:
- assembling said fiber array;
 - first polishing an end face of said assembled fiber array; and
 - then ashing or etching said end face of said fiber array at which said end face of said peripheral adhesive and said end ~~faces-face~~ of said ~~fibers~~fiber are located.
9. (Previously Presented) An optical device that is connected/fixed to a fiber array according to claim 1.
10. (Previously Presented) A fiber array housing a stripped fiber in a V-groove of a V-groove substrate comprising:
- a fiber fixing substrate fixing said stripped fiber; and
 - a peripheral adhesive disposed around said stripped fiber;
- wherein an end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed a depth x with respect to an end face of said fiber; and
- wherein said recess depth x is related to a water absorption ratio ϕ of said peripheral adhesive and a length L over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation $x = 0.1(\phi L) / 2$.
11. (Previously Presented) The fiber array according to claim 10, wherein said recess depth x is at least $0.1 \mu\text{m}$.